

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the document listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

U.S. Patent 5,801,859

The foregoing U.S. Patent corresponds to the document Japan 8-237306, which was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement dated March 30, 2000.

Inasmuch as the subject application has received a first action on the merits, but has not yet received either a final action, a notice of allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the merits, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanying by the \$180.00 fee set forth at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered.

Additionally, the July 23, 2001 Office Action indicated that the art cited in the March 30, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement has not been considered since copies of the references cited therein were allegedly not provided with that Information Disclosure Statement. However, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the enclosed copy of a postcard receipt bearing a Patent and Trademark Office mailroom stamp dated March 31, 2000 in which the postcard indicates that copies of 2 references were submitted to the Patent Office. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the March 30, 2000

Information Disclosure Statement fully complied with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and the art cited therein should be considered by the Examiner. As such, Applicants are submitting another copy of the Form PTO-1449 from that Information Disclosure Statement, as well as additional copies of the references listed thereon, for the Examiner's consideration. The Examiner is requested to indicate that the information cited in the March 30, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement has been considered by initialing the enclosed copy of the Form PTO-1449 and returning it to Applicants with the next communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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